

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 121

Introduced by Assembly Member Logue

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Ammiano, Blumenfield, Halderman, Hall, Huffman, Jeffries, Miller, Portantino, Wieckowski, and Williams)

(Coauthors: Senators Cannella, Dutton, Fuller, Harman, Pavley, and Runner)

March 5, 2012

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 121—Relative to Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 121, as introduced, Logue. Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

This measure would designate March 2012 as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Colorectal cancer is the third leading cause of
2 cancer deaths in both men and women in California, with 14,530
3 new cases and 5,120 deaths expected in 2012; and

4 WHEREAS, Colorectal cancer is treatable, curable, and in many
5 cases, completely preventable; and

6 WHEREAS, When colorectal cancers are detected at an early
7 stage, survival is nearly 91 percent; and

8 WHEREAS, There were approximately one million colorectal
9 cancer survivors in the United States in 2002; and

1 WHEREAS, Colorectal cancer is known as a silent killer,
2 because symptoms only show up in the later stages of the disease;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, With proper screening, colorectal cancer can be
5 prevented or, if found early, treated and cured; and

6 WHEREAS, In 2005, only 56 percent of the population in
7 California had received colorectal cancer screening according to
8 the guidelines; and

9 WHEREAS, According to the United States Preventive Services
10 Task Force, access to appropriate use of colorectal cancer screening
11 tests, such as colonoscopy, sigmoidoscopy, and fecal occult blood
12 test (FOBT)/ fecal immunochemical test (FIT), could reduce death
13 rates of colon cancer up to 66 percent; and

14 WHEREAS, According to the American Cancer Society, in
15 2008, only about 44 percent of colorectal cancers were diagnosed
16 at an early, more treatable, and curable stage; and

17 WHEREAS, The uninsured, underinsured, and underserved are
18 least likely to get screening for colorectal cancer, which means
19 they are more likely to be diagnosed at a late stage when chances
20 of survival drop to 12 percent; and

21 WHEREAS, Colorectal cancer screening is one of the most
22 cost-effective prevention measures in health care, more cost
23 effective than breast or prostate cancer screening; and

24 WHEREAS, African Americans have the highest colorectal
25 cancer incidence and mortality rates of all racial groups in this
26 country; and

27 WHEREAS, Hispanics and Latinos in California have low rates
28 of screening for colorectal cancer, and a low percentage of
29 colorectal cancers diagnosed at an early stage; and

30 WHEREAS, In California, colorectal cancer is the most common
31 cancer among Korean men, the second most common cancer among
32 Korean women, and the second most common cancer among
33 Japanese men and women; and

34 WHEREAS, The California Colorectal Cancer Coalition (C4)
35 is a nonprofit organization established to increase colorectal cancer
36 screening rates in an effort to decrease mortality associated with
37 the disease, and implement strategies to reduce disparities in
38 colorectal cancer screening, diagnosis, and treatment among
39 underserved populations in California; and

1 WHEREAS, C4 encourages Californians to discuss the
2 colorectal cancer screening test that is best for them with their
3 doctors and believes that the best test is the one you have done;
4 now, therefore, be it

5 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
6 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby designates March
7 2012 as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month; and be it further

8 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
9 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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